

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES RECOMMENDATIONS  
BACK ETHICS REQUIREMENTS IN  
H.R. 810, THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT**

*Cosponsor Castle-DeGette Legislation to Ensure Ethical Oversight of  
Stem Cell Research*

May 11, 2005

Dear Colleague,

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recently issued a set of guidelines to ensure that human embryonic stem cell research is conducted in a safe and ethical manner. Because of the limitations of the current federal policy, only 22 stem cell lines are eligible for federal research and fall under the jurisdiction of National Institutes of Health guidance.

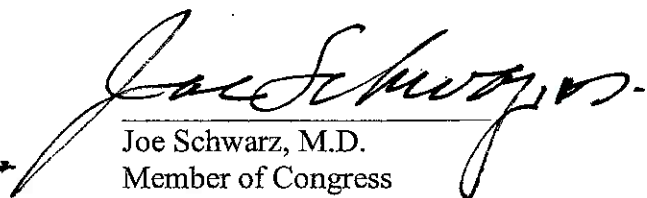
The guidelines outlined by the NAS back the ethical provisions included in H.R. 810, The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, including:

1. Embryos used to derive stem cells were originally created for fertility treatment purposes and are in excess of clinical need;
2. The individuals seeking fertility treatments for whom the embryos were created have determined that the embryos will not be implanted in a woman and will be discarded; and
3. The individuals for whom the embryos were created have provided written consent for embryo donation.

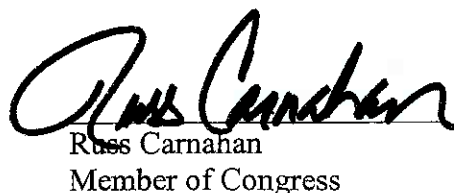
The NAS report also outlines a variety of other ethical dealing with informed consent, oversight, clinical applications, and genetic diversity. H.R. 810 enables NIH to adopt even more strict guidelines than are currently in law, and the NAS recommendations could serve as the model for those guidelines.

The federal policy on embryonic stem cell research should be expanded to give researchers access to the 128 cell lines created since President Bush announced his policy decision on August 9, 2001. This legislation would establish federal guidelines to ensure that embryonic stem cell research moves forward in a safe and ethical manner. For more information or to cosponsor H.R. 810, please contact Elizabeth Wenk with Congressman Castle at (202) 225-4165 or Meghan Taira with Congresswoman DeGette (202) 225-4431.

Sincerely,



Joe Schwarz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress